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# Iraq

## Status Report

December 16, 2009



Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs  
U.S. Department of State

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## HIGHLIGHTS



- **Iraqi Ministers and ISF Officials Testify About December 8 Bombings** (*SECURITY*, page 4)
- **Iraqi Lawmakers Conduct December 8 Attack Inquiry** (*POLITICAL*, page 7)
- **Successful Second Bid Round Potentially Establishes Iraq as Top Tier Oil Producer** (*ECONOMIC*, page 13)
- **Secretary Gates Visits Baghdad** (*DIPLOMATIC*, page 18)

## SECURITY – Situation Update



GOI attempts to identify security shortcomings in the aftermath of the December 8 bombings

### Iraqi Ministers and ISF Officials Testify About December 8 Bombings:

- Iraqi lawmakers met with Iraqi Security officials, including the Ministers of Defense and Interior, to discuss security breaches which allowed the attacks to take place. Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki testified before the Iraqi Council of Representatives (COR) in a closed session on December 10, the same day he dismissed General Abboud Qanbor as Baghdad Operations Command (BOC) Chief. In his testimony to the COR, General Abboud Qanbor, stated, “The information received by the U.S. indicated that the enemy would wage bombing attacks near the Baghdad International Fair headquarters and inside the green zone.” However, General Qanbor said the warnings came just seven minutes before the December 8 attacks which left 127 dead. U.S. military officials have confirmed that they warned Iraqi authorities about possible attacks in Baghdad the same day as the attacks, but that there was no immediately actionable intelligence.

### Islamic State of Iraq Claims Responsibility for December 8 Bombings in Baghdad:

- The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI), an umbrella organization of al-Qaida in Iraq, claimed responsibility for the series of deadly bombings that occurred in Baghdad on December 8. The group announced in a posting on its website on December 10 that it would “uproot pillars of this government and demolish its corners.” The ISI also claimed responsibility for large-scale bombings in Baghdad in August and October.

## SECURITY – Situation Update



### GOI attempts to identify security shortcomings in the aftermath of the December 8 bombings

#### MeK Re-location Effort Passes Peacefully:

- Iranian dissidents at Camp Ashraf in Iraq's Diyala province can transfer to another facility on a voluntary basis, Iraqi military officials said on Tuesday, December 15. Iraqi Brigadier General Bassel Hamad told the Voices of Iraq news agency that national forces would not forcibly expel the 3,000 or so members of the MeK from their camp. "The transfer will be voluntary," he said. "The residents will have the option to move out or to stay inside the camp." He added that if the residents defied government efforts to close Camp Ashraf, Baghdad would "find suitable solutions for this." The MeK is listed as a terrorist organization by the U.S. and Iraqi governments for its violent opposition to the clerical regime in Iran. The UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) called on all parties to negotiate to find a resolution that was in line with Iraq's sovereignty rights and international law. The UN added that it was committed to monitoring the situation at Camp Ashraf "on a daily basis."

#### Multiple Bombs in Iraq Kill Nine People:

- Bombs in Baghdad and Mosul killed a total of nine people. A series of seemingly coordinated car bombs near Green Zone entrances in Baghdad exploded within minutes of each other, killing five people and wounding 16 others. The bombs were located near the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Immigration and the Iranian Embassy. Four hours later, two more car bombs and a roadside mine killed four people and wounded 40 others in a busy neighborhood in Mosul. The bombings come exactly one week after multiple car bombs in Baghdad killed 127 people and wounded more than 500 others.



## SECURITY – Situation Update



GOI attempts to identify security shortcomings in the aftermath of the December 8 bombings

### Iraqi Cabinet Approves Plan to Give 85,000 USD to Car Bomb Tip-offs:

- Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki announced that the Iraqi Cabinet had approved a plan to offer rewards of up to 85,000 USD for tip-offs about car bombs. The plan still has to pass through the Council of Representatives (COR) before final approval. The announcement comes days after Defense Minister Abd al-Qadr al-Mufriji testified to the COR saying, “Our intelligence services desperately lack information since their budget is so small, and the law states that in order to pay an informer they first have to give his full name and his sources. When someone comes to tell me about a bomb factory or booby-trapped cars I can't pay him.”

### Gunmen Clad in Military Uniforms Rob Bank:

- Gunmen robbed the Wahed Hozayran Bank in downtown Kirkuk on December 14. According to local authorities, the gunmen, who were dressed in military uniforms, stole an undisclosed amount of cash before escaping to an unknown destination.

## POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation

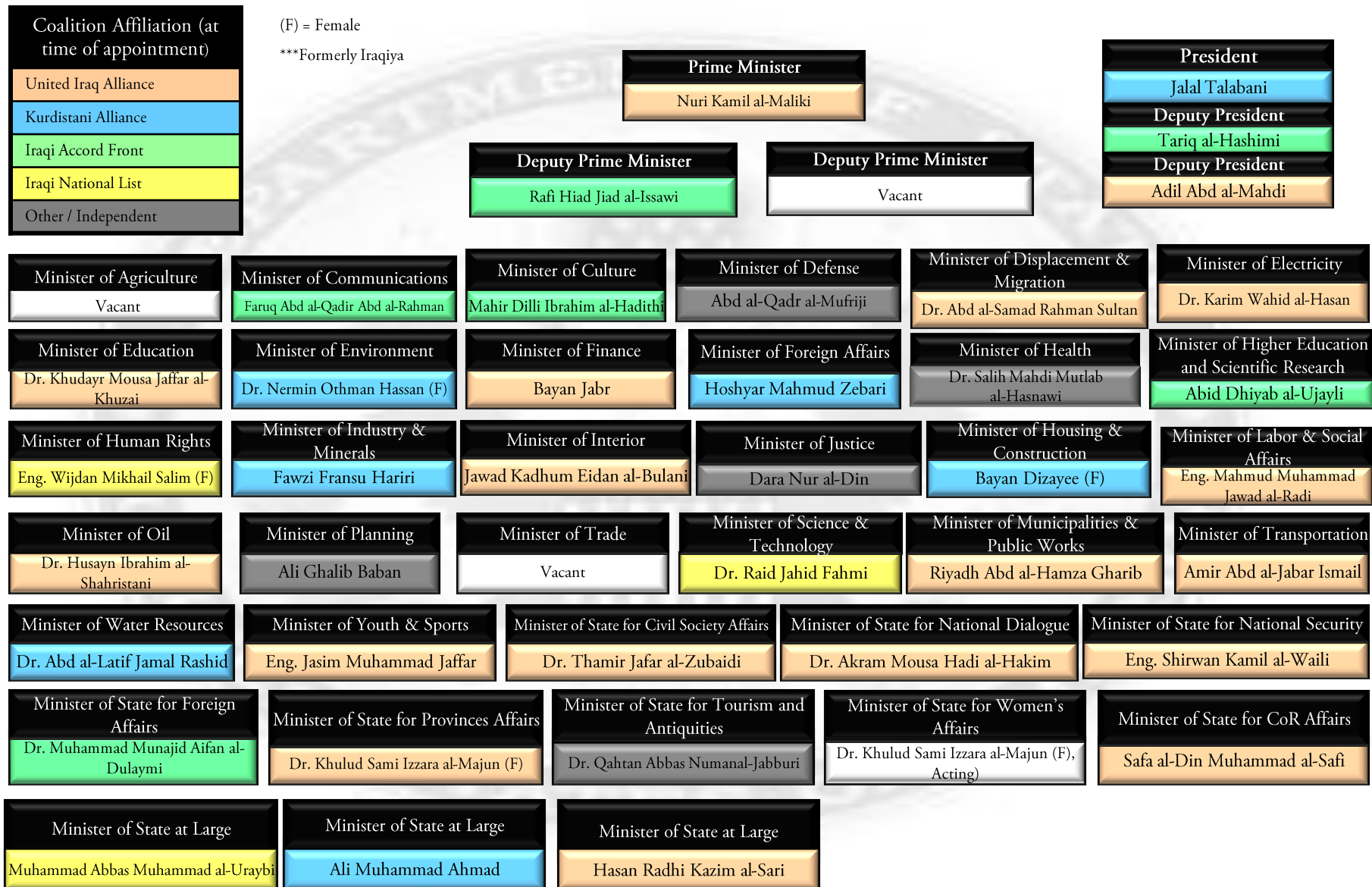


### Iraqi lawmakers conduct probe into the December 8 attacks

#### Iraqi Lawmakers Conduct December 8 Attack Inquiry:

- The Iraqi Council of Representatives hosted Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and questioned him regarding the security situation in Iraq. The questioning was sparked by the most recent bombings on December 8. Iraqi lawmakers also questioned Iraqi security officials in regards to the attacks.

# POLITICAL – Government of Iraq

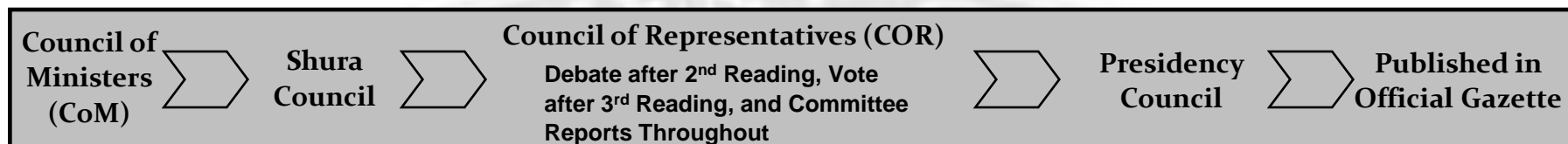






## POLITICAL – Key Legislative Issues

### Legislative Process



- **Hydrocarbons Package:** The Framework Law was resubmitted to the Oil and Gas Committee on October 26, 2008 and then returned to the Council of Ministers. There has been no progress on the other three laws in the package.
- **NGO Law:** This law will regulate the operations and funding of Non-Governmental Organizations operating within Iraq. It received its first reading in the Council of Representatives on April 20, 2009.
- **National Elections Law:** The amended election law was approved by the Presidency Council on December 6.

## POLITICAL - Refugee Update

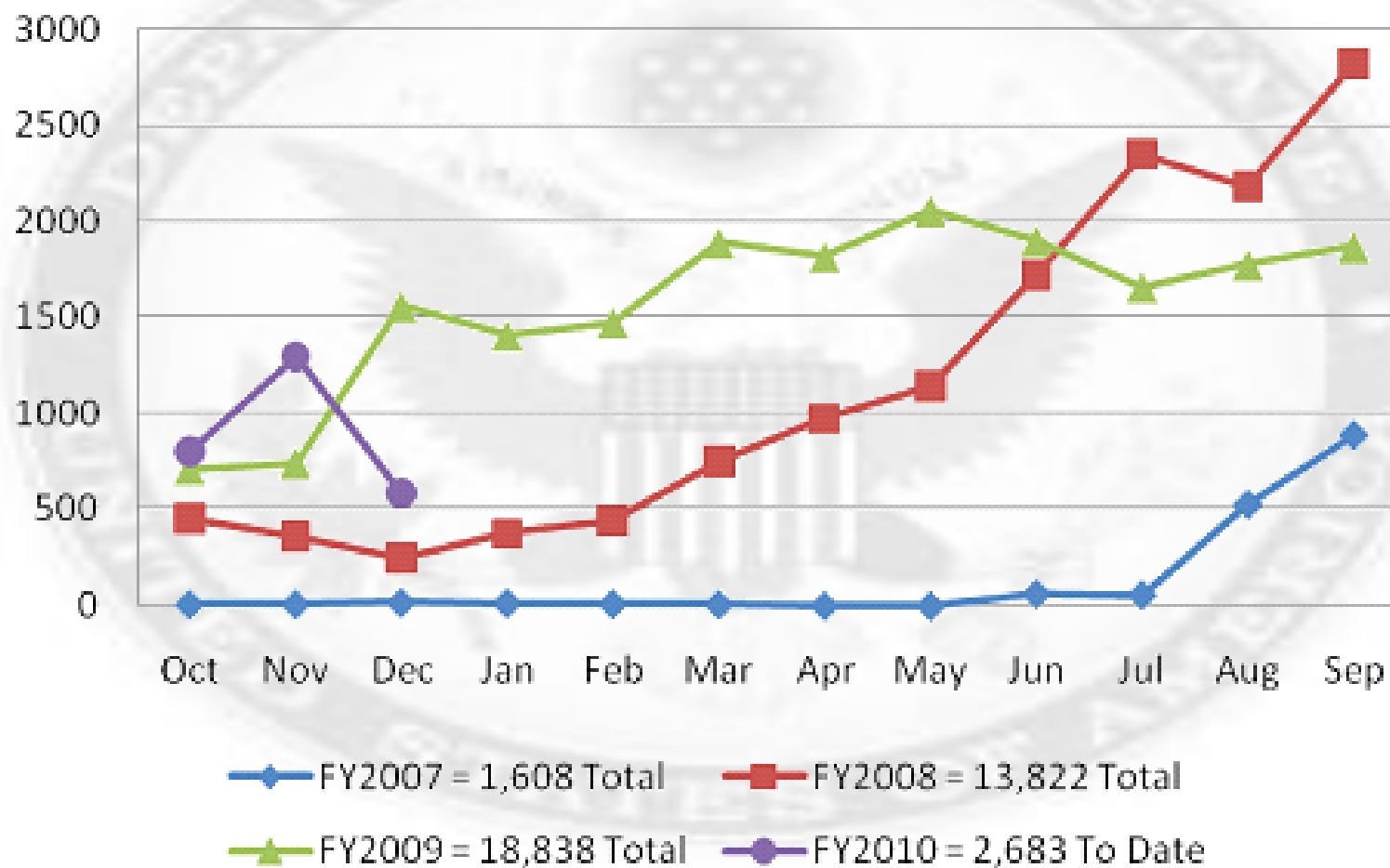


- **There are approximately 295,000 Iraqi refugees currently registered with UNHCR in neighboring countries. There are likely significant numbers of unregistered refugees as well. UNHCR reports that 1.5 million Iraqis displaced by sectarian violence following the Samarra Mosque bombing of February 2006 remain internally displaced in Iraq.**
- **In FY09, the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration contributed \$ 303.4 million to international organizations and nongovernmental organizations to assist displaced Iraqis inside the country and in the region.**
- **Since the program's inception in FY07, 37,573 Iraqi refugees have been admitted for U.S. resettlement, an increase of 622 since the last report. The U.S. admitted 18,838 Iraqi refugees in FY09.**
- **As of September 2009, a total of 1,606 Special Immigrant Visa (SIVs) have been issued for Iraqi translators and interpreters (and their dependents) since FY07 (under the Section 1059 program).**
- **As of September 2009, a total of 3,028 SIVs have been issued for Iraqis employed by or on behalf of the U.S. government (and their dependents) since FY08 (under the Section 1244 program).**
- **Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced July 24 that the United States was contributing more than \$100 million in new assistance to support the return and reintegration of displaced Iraqis.**

# POLITICAL - Refugee Update



## Iraqi Admissions to the U.S.



# ECONOMIC – Oil



## Oil prices are rising, but exports below 2009 targets

Crude Oil Update:

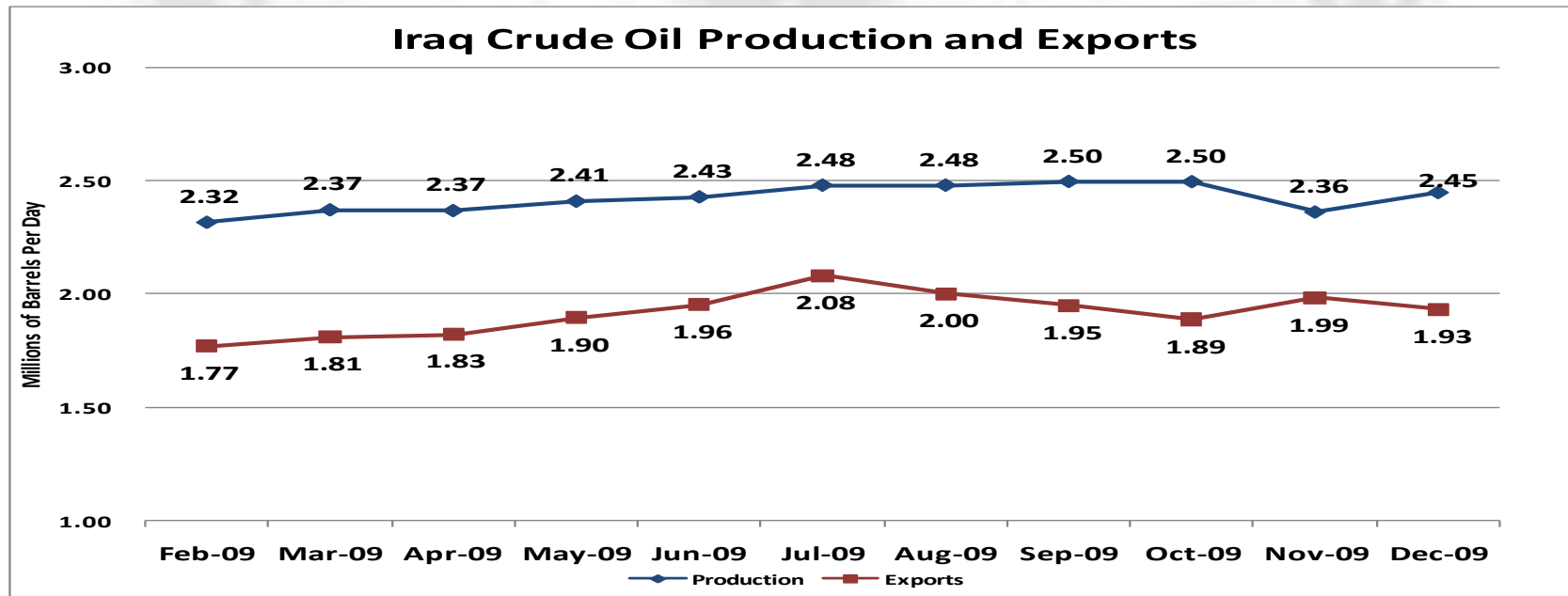
*Price averages in world markets closed with the following prices:*

Basrah Light at \$ 71.62/barrel

Dated Brent at \$73.24/barrel

WTI Cushing at \$71.53/barrel

Oman/Dubai at \$75.82/barrel



## Revenue estimates:

**2007: \$41.0 Billion**

**2008: \$61.9 Billion**

**2009 (ytd): \$30.6 Billion**

\*Approximate estimate.

## ECONOMIC – Oil



Successful second bid round potentially establishes Iraq as top tier oil producer

### Iraq Awards Seven Fields in Second Oil Bid Round:

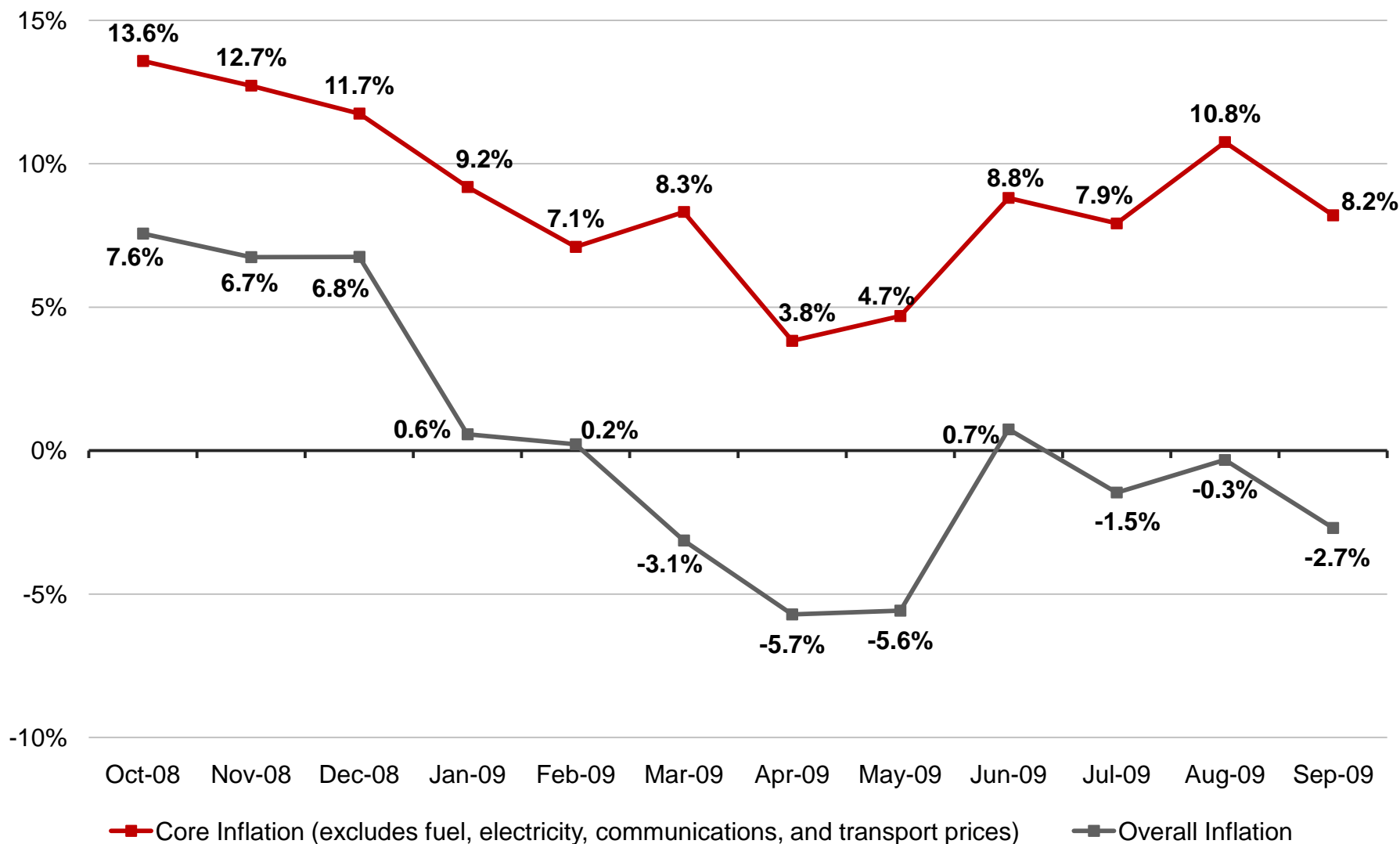
- Iraq's Ministry of Oil awarded seven of ten fields during a two-day bid round December 11-12 that could eventually boost Iraq's oil capacity to 12 million barrels per day, according to Ministry officials. A consortium led by Russia's Lukoil won the West Qurna Phase 2 oil field, the largest field on offer, and a consortium led by Royal Dutch Shell won the Majnoon oil field, the second largest field on offer. The Ministry awarded five other fields to international consortia. No companies bid on three of the field groups offered.



# ECONOMIC - Fiscal and Monetary Affairs



## Year-on-Year Inflation



# ECONOMIC – Fiscal and Monetary Affairs



Economic Indicator	This Week	Last Week	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales</b>				
Price (USD)	\$75.59	\$75.38	\$75.34	\$66.08
Yield	8.46%	8.48%	8.49%	10.96%

## ECONOMIC – Private Sector

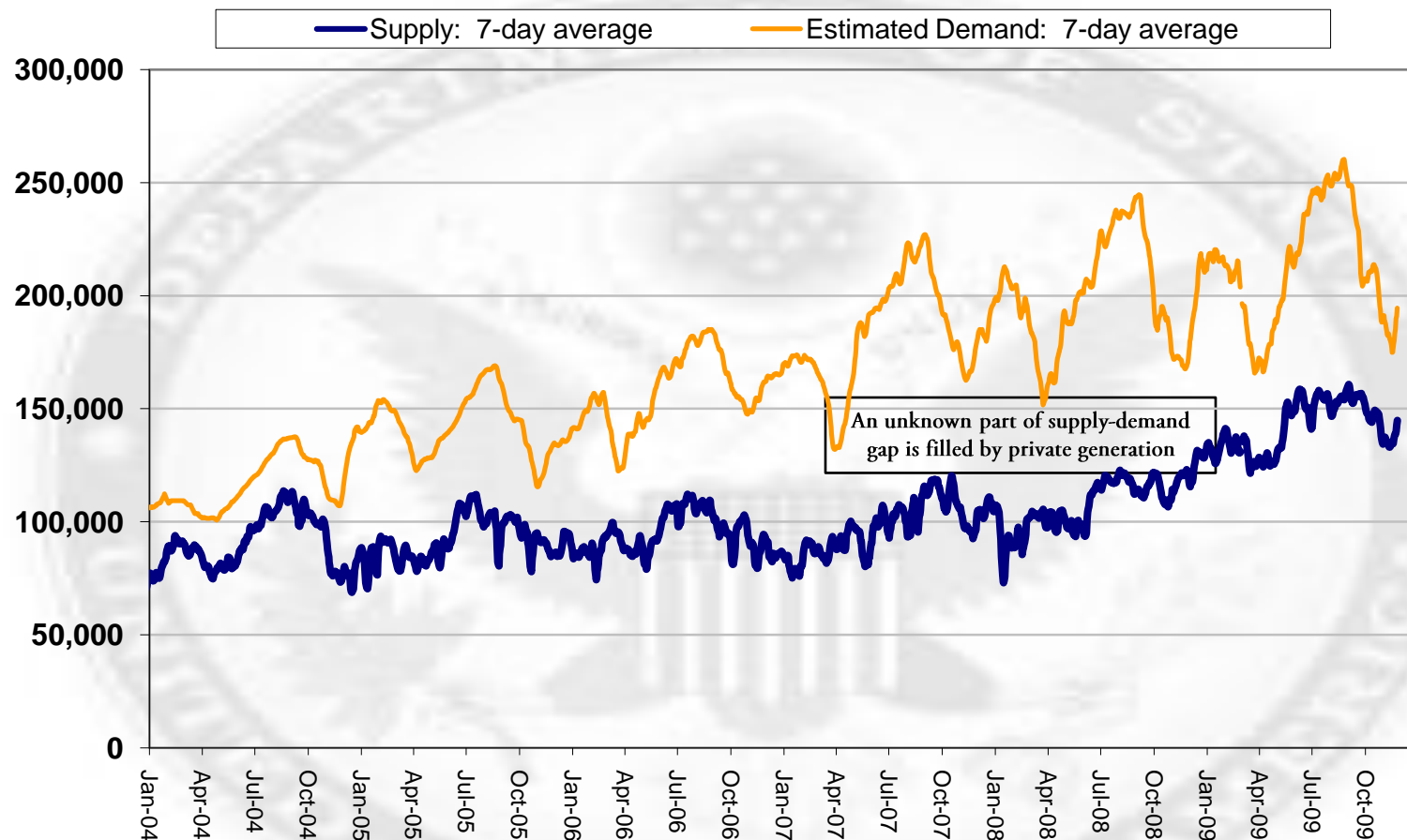


### Mayor of Baghdad finalizes housing and commercial facilities contracts

#### Commercial and Residential Properties Set to be Build in Baghdad

- **Construction will soon commence on two investment projects in Baghdad that will provide more than 100,000 housing units for Iraqis in the capital city. Mayor Sabir al-Issawi finalized negotiations with the “company assigned to invest in al-Rasheed Camp to build 65,000 housing units, and entertainment, commercial, sports and medical facilities” on December 15. The complex will span over 2,500 square meters.**

## Public Services – Electricity



- Electricity supply from the grid December 6 -12 was 13% above the year-earlier period and met 69% of estimated demand, compared with 65% for the earlier period.

## DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement



The GOI and USG continue security cooperation

### Secretary Gates Visits Baghdad:

- **Defense Secretary Robert Gates landed in Baghdad on December 10 and met with President Jalal Talabani to discuss the security situation in Iraq. While in Iraq he also consulted with American military commanders.**



## Beyond Baghdad



Ninewas' recently installed Civil Defense Warning System

### *Ninewa*

### *Dhi Qar - Muthanna*

**“...we will help Iraq's institutions strengthen their capacity to protect the rule of law, confront corruption, and deliver basic services.”**

*President Barack Obama*

### *Recent Highlights*

The Iraq Civil Defense Department with the assistance of PRT Ninewa recently completed the installation of a Civil Defense Warning System in Mosul. The early warning system is designed to alert residents of Ninewa province of impending disasters. The system was specifically built to address the dangers posed by the deteriorating Mosul dam which represents a direct threat to the residents of Mosul in the event of a catastrophic failure. In coordination with PRT Ninewa work began in March 2009 to install eight new sirens, solar panels and an emergency warning system in Mosul. The completed system has been tested and received positive reviews from city officials and its residents.

Iraqi judges, police and other rule of law officials from Dhi Qar and Muthanna provinces attended the inaugural southern region Rule of Law Conference organized by Dhi Qar PRT and the Army 4th Brigade 1st Armored Division. The conference focused on ways provincial leaders could improve the rule of law in their provinces and ways in which to improve coordination between the police and judicial branches. Participants engaged in an open discussion moderated by Professor Maitham from the Dhi Qar University Law Faculty in order to identify rule of law issues on which to focus their efforts. The conference concluded with a general agreement to meet again to track the provinces' progress in meeting their goals.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

**This brief draws from multiple sources. References are cited on the following pages.**

**For additional information, please see:**

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<http://2001-2009.state.gov/p/nea/rls/rpt/>
- Department of State, Section 1227 Report on Iraq  
<http://2001-2009.state.gov/p/nea/rls/rpt/>
- Department of Defense, Section 9010 Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq  
[http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/Iraq\\_Reports/index.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/Iraq_Reports/index.html)

**Please forward all questions and/or comments to:**

**[NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov](mailto:NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov)**



## NOTES AND SOURCE CITATIONS (1 of 2)

Slide 4:

- AP, December 14, [http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hwK\\_CSpBxsNuVUEaDuOwmSSCiqGwD9CJ3O600](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hwK_CSpBxsNuVUEaDuOwmSSCiqGwD9CJ3O600);
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Slide 5:

- UPI, December 15, [http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/Special/2009/12/15/PMOI-relocation-voluntary-Iraq-says/UPI-40241260899175/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Special/2009/12/15/PMOI-relocation-voluntary-Iraq-says/UPI-40241260899175/)
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Slides 8-11:

- Department of State, NEA Political Section, NEA-I-POL-DL@state.gov

Slide 12:

- Department of State, NEA/I Economics Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov

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- Wall Street Journal, December 14, 2009, <http://www.zawya.com/printstory.cfm?storyid=ZW20091213000106&cl=035219091214>;
- Reuters, December 14, 2009, <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE5BB19520091212>; Reuters, December 14, 2009, <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE5BB18Q20091213>; BBC News, December 12, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/8409473.stm>



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Slide 16:

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- NYT, December 11, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/11/world/asia/11gates.html>; VOA News, December 10, <http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/middle-east/Gates-Meets-with-Talabani-in-Baghdad-78980042.html>

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- Source for Stories: Embassy Baghdad Website, <http://iraq.usembassy.gov/prt-ninewa-12082009.html>
- Rule of Law PRT Highlights for November 2009
- Source for President Obama's Quote: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/Remarks-of-President-Barack-Obama-Responsibly-Ending-the-War-in-Iraq/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-of-President-Barack-Obama-Responsibly-Ending-the-War-in-Iraq/)